



Summer 2003

# Middle Beach E-Mail Newsletter

*"We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community."*

City of Miami Beach  
Neighborhood Services  
1700 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
305-604-CITY (2489)

Hold down the "Ctrl"  
key and click below  
to:

[\\*send an e-mail to  
Neighborhood Services](#)

[\\*visit our website at  
www.miamibeachfl.gov](#)

Call 305-673-7580/VOICE to  
request material in accessible  
format, sign language  
interpreter (five days in  
advance), or information on  
access for persons with  
disabilities.

**City Of Miami Beach**  
Answer Center  
305-604-CITY (2489)

**Office of the Mayor and  
Commission**  
305-673-7030

**Office of the City Manager**  
305-673-7010

## Neighborhood Meeting Addresses Quality of Life Issues

Thirty-five Middle Beach residents attended a neighborhood meeting held on June 16, 2003 at the Nautilus Middle High School Cafeteria. Those in attendance identified a number of concerns affecting the community's quality of life. This newsletter highlights those areas and provides important information regarding the City's programs and the community's responsibilities. Educating the community is the first step towards enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods. The following twelve items were identified as neighborhood priorities:

1. Status of 63<sup>rd</sup> Street flyover project and proposed modifications to the intersection leading into Allison Island and the Aqua development.
2. Alton Road traffic calming and the impact of speeding cars on the quality of life and safety of the residents and damage to parked vehicles.
3. Maintenance of the 41 Street/Alley/parking areas.
4. Need for designated bike paths in Miami Beach.
5. Status of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street improvement project.
6. Concern regarding metered parking lots staffed by attendants on weekends.
7. Requests for sidewalk repairs in the La Gorce/Pine Tree area.
8. Polo Park renovation status.
9. A more proactive approach by Code Enforcement.
10. Parks subcontractors blowing lawn debris into streets.
11. Sidewalks blocked by cars and bushes
12. Vandalism to cars in the 47 Street and Pine Tree Drive area.

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## 63rd Street Flyover Project

The expected start date of this FDOT project is April 2005. This project was approved by the City Commission, and includes the removal of the existing flyover bridge. The intersection in front of the Aqua development, formerly St. Francis Hospital, is also scheduled for improvements.

**Police**  
(non-emergency)  
305-673-7900  
**Fire**  
(non-emergency)  
305-673-7120

**Parks &  
Recreation**  
305-673-7730

**Parking**  
305-673-PARK

**City Job Hotline**  
305-673-7777

**Bulky Waste  
Pick-Up  
Appointment**  
305-633-2700

**24-Hour  
Services**

**Water & Sewer  
Streets  
Sidewalks  
Streetlights  
Storm water**  
305-673-7625

**Traffic Signals**  
305-592-3580

**FPL**  
(Power outages & street lights  
on wooden poles)  
305-442-8770

Mayor David Dermer •  
Commissioners: Matti Herrera  
Bower, Simon Cruz, Luis R.  
Garcia, Jr., Saul Gross, Jose Smith  
and Richard Steinberg  
City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez  
• City Attorney Murray H. Dubbin  
• City Clerk Robert Parcher •  
Vivian P. Guzman, Director  
Neighborhood Services  
Department

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## Traffic Calming

In an effort to slow traffic, the Police Department has been deploying Smart Trailers around the neighborhood, which records a vehicle's speed and displays it on a large panel to warn drivers about the speed that they are traveling.

The Motorcycle squad will continue to enforce speeding violations daily in the Middle District.

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## 41 Street/Alley/Parking lots

Residents expressed concern over potholes in and around the area, and feel that the public right-of-ways in general need improvement. Public Works and the Parking Department will work together to address the streets and swales, and the City's 41 Street Business District Representative will work with area business owners to address the general appearance and condition of the area.

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## Bicycle Paths for Middle Beach

Due to the intense interest shown by Middle Beach residents, the Mayor is creating a Blue Ribbon panel to work with City staff in bringing safe bicycle paths to the area.

A list of potential Committee members has been sent to the Mayor's office for selection. Those selected will be contacted.

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## 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Improvements

Plans and specifications were submitted to the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for this project, but were rejected and the contractor was asked to rework and resubmit them. To visit CIP's website, **hold down the CNTRL button down and click on this link: [Capital Improvements](http://www.cmbprojects.com/)**

(<http://www.cmbprojects.com/>)

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## Metered Parking lots with Parking Attendants

Residents at the meeting noted that when using the metered lots that have parking attendant staff present, were not allowed to pay at the meters, but were forced by on site staff to pay the flat parking rate.

Chuck Adams, Assistant Parking Director, very clearly stated that the attendants were stationed at the metered lots as a customer courtesy, for those wishing to pay the flat fee instead of using the meters. However, patrons who wish to use the meter and not pay the flat rate are entitled to do so.

Mr. Adams said that he would make the policy clear to the parking lot attendants. In addition, he encouraged any resident who

encountered problems regarding this issue to call him on his cell phone at 786-412-6431, and he would immediately clarify this for any attendant not familiar with this policy.

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## LaGorce/Pinetree Sidewalks

Sidewalks in the La Gorce/Pine Tree area are under Miami-Dade County jurisdiction. As a result, all repairs must be made by the County. Numerous recent requests by Public Works have not been responded to by the County in a timely manner- in response the City has been told that the work will be scheduled.

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## Polo Park renovation

The City has been working with the School Board in renovating Polo Park. The park is a shared property- the City has done extensive renovations to the playing field. However, the Parks Department is waiting for the School Board to finish their portion of the renovation. Work is proceeding, albeit slowly.

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## Code Enforcement

Residents at the meeting requested that Code Enforcement take a more proactive approach to enforcing neighborhood standards. In fact, Code has already begun this process. At the meeting it was learned that the number of Code Enforcement Officers has increased to four for the Middle Beach area, and each officer is mandated to performing a number of hours of pro active enforcement in addition to responding to resident complaints. Currently, however, one of the Officers is on military leave, and the other is in training. Code expects to have their full compliment of officers for Middle Beach in the near future.

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## Debris Blown Into Roadways

Recently, some residents observed Parks Department lawn maintenance subcontractors using leaf blowers to blow grass clippings into public roadways. Parks had been notified of this approximately two weeks before the meeting, and had already issued stern warnings to the subcontractor to not do this. The subcontractor has been in compliance since; however, if any resident observes this action happening again they are encourage to notify the City through the Answer Center system for immediate action.

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## Blocked Sidewalks

Overgrown bushes and illegally parked cars were of concern to area residents. Code Enforcement will be on the lookout for overgrowth blocking sidewalks- residents are encourage to report any cases of this to Code for action. In addition, residents who observe cars blocking sidewalks, forcing pedestrians into the roadways should contact the City's Answer Center to report the vehicle. (If after 5:00 pm, residents can call Parking Dispatch at 305-673-9453.

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## Vandalized Vehicles

Residents reported that vehicles parked in the 47 Street and Pine Tree area were sporadically being vandalized. Police Lt. Reid, who was at the meeting, will step up police enforcement in the area and increase police vigilance. Anyone observing acts of vandalism should contact the police immediately at 305-673-7900.

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## Neighborhood Services

### Restructures

In an effort to streamline services and effectuate cost savings, Neighborhood Services will be changing the staffing assignments of the Community Resource and Outreach Division. It was recently decided that Middle Beach will be evenly divided into two sections for customer service purposes. Middle Beach, as a district, will be maintained, as will North Beach and South Beach.

Residents of Middle Beach living north of 41 Street will have Lynn Bernstein as their primary contact. Lynn's number is 305-673-7000 Ext. 6178.

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Middle Beach residents living south of 41 Street will have Caroline DeFreze as their primary contact. Her number is 305-673-7000 Ext. 6752.

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Middle Beach will continue to have regular community meetings as in the past, and will still receive the same high level of service that its residents have come to expect and deserve.

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## Answer Center

The City Miami Beach Neighborhood Services Department Answer Center is the easiest way to contact City Hall. Friendly, professional, bilingual operators will be happy to assist you with information and referral, comments and service requests. The state-of-the-art customer tracking system will then direct your request to the exact person who can handle the issue and tracks the request electronically until it is resolved.

Powered by a Customer Relationship Management system, it handles citizen inquiries and service requests by providing fast and accurate logging of information, on-line assignment and dispatching and step-by-step tracking of resolution activities. Miami Beach residents now have access to City Hall 24-hours a day and 7 days a week.

In addition, the City of Miami Beach is now a U.S. Passport Agency. Conveniently located in the Answer Center, you can avoid long lines and come in for your passport needs. Passport photography is also available at the Center.

To connect to this new service, **Hold the CNTRL button down and click on this link: [Answer Center](http://miamibeachfl.gov/newcity/neighborhoods/answer_center.asp)**

([http://miamibeachfl.gov/newcity/neighborhoods/answer\\_center.asp](http://miamibeachfl.gov/newcity/neighborhoods/answer_center.asp))